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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/611,744

07/01/2003

John L. Janning

J-00009-002

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01/12/2005

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EXAMINER

CARIASO, ALAN B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,744

Applicant(s)

JANNING, JOHN L.

Examiner

Alan Cariaso

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9,10 and 19-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,7,11,12,15 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,6,8,13,14,16 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20030701.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 5, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by FLECK (US 4,727,449).

3. FLECK discloses a light socket (14) in a light string (fig.1) having at least two light sockets connected in series (fig.1), wherein each socket (14) receives a light bulb (22), wherein said socket (14) includes a housing (fig.2) having a pair of conductive terminals (16a,16b) to operatively connect and receive part (18a,b) of a light bulb (22) in an upper portion of the housing (14) and leaving a lower portion of said housing (14) unoccupied by the light bulb (22), and each terminal (16a,16b) is operatively connected to a wire (26a,26b) leading outside the housing (14), which includes: a first semiconductor chip (diode Da, fig.2); and a first conductive member (any one of the phantom conductors in fig.2) connected at one end to one side of the first semiconductor chip (Da) and having another end (at 16a or Sa), and wherein said chip (Da) and said member (phantom conductors) are configured to be operatively interposed (fig.1, col.3, lines 19-22) in a self-retained manner between the terminals (16a,16b); further including a second semiconductor chip (Sa or S4, col.2, lines 50-51) wherein said first conductive member (conductor between Da and Sa) is connected at said another end to another side of said

second chip (Sa) and wherein said chips (Da,Sa) contact (via conductors fig.2) said terminals (16a,16b) when said chips (Da,Sa) and said conductive member are configured to be operatively interposed (col.3, lines 19-22) between said terminals (16a,16b) in said lower portion (fig.2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 7, 12 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FLECK (US 4,727,449).

6. FLECK does not disclose bonded between the first conductive member and said side of said chip or each said chip. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the light string socket device of FLECK including bonded connection between the first conductive member (conductor between Da and Sa) and each side of each of the chips (Da,Sa) since it is well known in the art of illumination or circuits to bond (as in welding) connections between circuit elements in order to form secure mechanical-electrical connections to complete the circuit within a housing.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 13, 14, 16 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 9, 10 and 19-21 allowed.


Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. KAMM (US 2,072,337) and LOU (US 3,345,482) show other resistor shunt devices interposed between terminals of socket housings in light string series circuit. SHIBATA (US 5,442,258) shows plural semiconductor parts (2,3, 5) on a circuit support (11) interposed between terminals (13) of a light-emitting unit (1). JOU (US 4,769,579) and CHOU (US 5,854,541) discloses a diode (JOU 300, fig.2) electrically connected to each lamp (JOU 200, fig.2) (CHOU 11) within each lampholder (JOU 100) (CHOU 111).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan Cariaso whose telephone number is (571) 272-2366. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alan Cariaso
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2875

AC
January 10, 2005